

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 191240Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8312

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORGAN OAU, SG

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

MEETING, LOME, FEBRUARY 22-26 / SENEGAL

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL WILL BE REPRESENTED AT SUBJECT MEETING BY ITS AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, AND TAKES VIEW THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IS NOT INTENDED TO BE POLITICAL FORUM. TO THE EXTENT THAT POLITICAL ISSUES ARISE, SENEGALESE POSITIONS LIKELY TO REFLECT CONCERN OVER TENSION IN HORN OF AFRICA, RELUCTANCE TO SEE RAPID SCHEDULING OF SUMMIT ON WESTERN SAHARA, AND BELIEF THAT RECONCILIATION AMONG NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS HOLDS KEY TO PROGRESS IN CONTESTED TERRITORIES SUCH AS RHODESIA DNA ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WITH CHARGE, SALOUM KANDE, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, INDICATED THAT SENEGAL WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AT SUBJECT MEETING. SENEGALESE DELEGATION WILL INSTEAD BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR  
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TO ETHIOPIA LATYR KAMARA. (KANDE WILL REMAIN IN DAKAR DURING LOME CONFERENCE TO ASSIST WITH VISIT HERE BY ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU).

3. KANDE NOTED THAT, PRIOR TO 1972, PURPOSE OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING HAD BEEN STRICTLY BUDGETARY. UNFORTUNATELY, FORUM HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY POLITICIZED AND FORTHCOMING

SESSION ALSO LIKELY TO BE DOMINATED BY POLITICAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS, AMONG WHICH TENSION IN HORN WOULD FIGURE PROMINENTLY (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. WITH RESPECT TO PROJECTED OAU SUMMIT ON WESTERN SAHARA, KANDE NOTED THAT OAU SECRETARIAT HAD EARLIER PROPOSED FEBRUARY 15 DATE BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN REQUISITE NUMBER OF ACCEPTANCES DUE TO NUMEROUS OTHER AFRICAN MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY. HE SAID THAT GOS HAD RECEIVED PROPOSAL FROM SECRETARIAT FEBRUARY 17 THAT EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT TAKE PLACE IN APRIL, AND HAD ALREADY REPLIED THAT SENEGAL COULD NOT PARTICIPATE AT THAT TIME DUE TO FRANCO-AFRICAN AND EXTRAORDINARY OCAM SUMMITS IN DAKAR AND OTHER CONFLICTS. KANDE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT QUESTION COULD BE SHELVED UNTIL OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE. (SENEGALESE FOOT-DRAGGING ON THIS QUESTION REFLECTS FACT THAT EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT IDEA WAS ORIGINALLY ENDORSED BY SENEGAL MAINLY AS PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVER TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION.)

5. PRESIDENT SENGHOR WAS CRITICAL OF DECISION BY FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS TO ENDORSE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN RHODESIA, BUT FAILURE TO SEND MINISTERIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO LOME, IF THAT INDEED PROVES TO BE THE CASE, SUGGEST THAT SENEGAL PLANS TO DEFER TO OAU CONSENSUS (AS IT DID ON ANGOLAN ADMISSION), RATHER THAN CONTESTING CASE. IN GENERAL, SENEAGLESE POSITION HAS BEEN THAT THERE SHOULD BE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN COMPETING NATIONALIST GROUPS IN SUCH AREAS AS RHODESIA AND ANGOLA, WHOSE MPLA GOVERNMENT STILL IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY DAKAR.

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6. WITH RESPECT TO SUCH NON-AFRICAN ISSUES AS KOREA, WE KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT SENEGAL CONSIDERS THESE INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN OAU FRAMEWORK AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE THEIR INTRODUCTION.

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## Message Attributes

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